

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128832

SY CHANNEL; FO; RSO FROM PRS/PL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: BODYGUARDS FOR DIPLOMATS IN U.S.

REFERENCE: ANKARA 3443

1. NO DEPARTMENT OR U.S. GOVERNMENT FORMAL POLICY EXISTS REGARDING SUBJECT. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING IS THE NON-PUBLISHED, LONG-EXISTING UNDERSTANDING: WHEN A FOREIGN OFFICE SENDS SECURITY OFFICERS TO THE U.S. IT IS REQUESTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT THEY BE DIPLOMATICALLY ACCREDITED. THIS IMPLIES IMMUNITY FOR THE CARRIAGE OF WEAPONS IN THE U.S., WHICH IN MOST CITIES AND STATES IS NOT ALLOWED BY NON-CITIZENS AND, IN MOST CASES, U.S. CITIZENS AS WELL.

2. SEVERAL EMBASSIES AS WELL AS CONSULATES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. MAINTAIN A SECURITY OFFICER STAFF, INCLUDING THE
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TURKISH EMBASSY.

3. WHEN AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AS WELL AS OTHER AMBASSADORS TRAVEL OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, D.C., PRS/PL NOTIFIES APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES AND IF TRAVELLING BY AIR, FAA AND THE U.S. FLAG CARRIER WITH THE REQUEST THAT HIS ARMED BODYGUARD BE ALLOWED TO CARRY HIS WEAPON ABOARD THE

AIRCRAFT. THE NOTIFICATION TO FIELD OFFICES AND POLICE

AUTHORITIES ALSO ADVISES THAT THE BODYGUARD IS ARMED.

4. THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DOES NOT ISSUE PERMITS TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON TO ANYONE. THEY DO GIVE AUTHORIZATION AND/OR COMMISSION TO PRIVATE DETECTIVES AND GUARD AGENCIES WHICH EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZE AN INDIVIDUAL TO POSSESS A WEAPON FOR THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY, REPEAT PROPERTY, ONLY. CERTAIN FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN COURIER DUTIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO TRANSPORT WEAPONS FROM PLACE TO PLACE WITHIN THE DISTRICT. HOWEVER, NO PRIVATE BODYGUARDS ARE AUTHORIZED OR PERMITTED TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS. THE ABOVE HOLDS TRUE IN NEARLY ALL MAJOR U.S. CITIES.

5. ALTHOUGH A FOREIGN BODYGUARD TRAVELLING WITH AN AMBASSADOR OR OTHER FOREIGN DIGNITARY IS IN EFFECT DOING SO WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY, LOCAL AUTHORITIES TEND TO BE LENIENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF STATUTES PERTAINING TO THE POSSESSION OF A CONCEALED WEAPON, PARTICULARLY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY SY. VANCE

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